

APPROVED: Meeting No. 36-96

ATTEST: *Paula S. Jewell*

MAYOR AND COUNCIL  
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND  
Meeting No. 30-96

July 15, 1996

The Mayor and Council of Rockville, Maryland, convened in Public Hearing in the Council Chamber, Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, Maryland, on July 15, 1996, at 7:33 p.m.

PRESENT

Mayor Rose G. Krasnow

Councilmember Robert E. Dorsey

Councilmember Robert J. Wright

Councilmember Glennon J. Harrison

ABSENT

Councilmember James T. Marrinan (On travel)

In attendance: City Manager Rick Kuckkahn, City Clerk Paula Jewell and City Attorney Paul Glasgow.

Re: Public Hearing: Annexation  
Petition ANX96-0122, Alice  
Kelly, Applicant.

The Mayor and Council held a Public Hearing on Annexation Petition ANX96-0122, an area proposed for annexation consisting of one parcel and a portion of right-of-way of Dover Road, totalling 3.9 acres on Dover Road, south of Gude Drive. The Mayor and Council heard all those persons as can be found in the official stenographic transcript. There being no other persons wishing to speak, Mayor Krasnow declared the public hearing closed and noted that the record would be left open until close of business on September 18, 1996.

Re: Public Hearing: Exploratory  
Application for Residential  
Townhouse Development  
RTH96-0017, Montgomery  
County Government, Department  
of Housing and Community  
Development, Applicant.

The Mayor and Council held a Public Hearing on Exploratory Application for Residential Townhouse Development RTH96-0017, for 23 residential townhouse units to be constructed and situated on approximately 5.9 acres of land, more or less, located on the north side of Wootton Parkway between Edmonston Drive and Tower Oaks Boulevard. The Mayor and Council heard all those persons as can be found in the official stenographic transcript. There being no other persons wishing to speak, Mayor Krasnow declared the public hearing closed and noted that the record would be left open until close of business on August 2, 1996.

Re: Citizens Forum - This time is set  
aside to hear from any citizen  
who wishes to address the  
Mayor and Council.

1. Dick Haight, former Rockville Councilmember and resident displayed a commemorative brick from the demolished Rockville Mall. He said that he listened to Rockville Center, Inc.'s plans to rebuild downtown Rockville and it appeared that RCI's plans were very similar to the same design of the old Mall which was a failure. Mr. Haight said that during his tenure on the City Council, he expressed concern that the Mall would fail, and he said that if the Mayor and Council did not listen to the lessons of the past, the new downtown area would also be a failure. Mr. Haight said that the Mayor

and Council should allow private enterprise to develop the area without any funding provided from the City.

Mayor Krasnow assured Mr. Haight that the Mayor and Council viewed the plans for downtown Rockville as a very different plan than the original Mall. She said the new downtown was being built with developer funds and that the State, County and City each contributed funding for restoring the original street grid.

2. Iris Arafa, former Rockville resident informed the Mayor and Council that she was presently homeless and residing in Washington, D.C. Ms. Arafa stated that her problems began in Montgomery County, and she stated her feelings that all government agencies in Rockville failed her because there were no resources available to assist her and other African Americans.

3. Don Boebel, 3 Barclay Court commended City staff on the "outstanding job" performed on the Independence Day celebration. Mr. Boebel also commended the Mayor and Council for providing the funds and direction for staff to carry out the event.

Re: Correspondence

There being no items to discuss under Correspondence, Mayor Krasnow declared this portion of the meeting closed.

Re: New Business

1. Mayor Krasnow asked Mr. Kuckkahn to look into what would happen to the Grandin Avenue water tower which was taken out of service. Ms. Krasnow said that she learned from two visitors that a plan was underway to install a cellular tower on the water tower.

Re: Adjourn to Worksession

There being no further business to come before the Mayor and Council, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m., to reconvene immediately after in Worksession to discuss various Public Works issues.

The Mayor and Council met with Julia Novak, Deputy City Manager and Acting Director of the Department of Public Works, Assistant to the City Manager Michelle Martin, Public Works employees, Joe Cutro (Chief Engineer/Transportation), Mike Wilhelm (Civil Engineer), Charles Thomas (Sanitation Superintendent), Byron Turner (Operations Maintenance Superintendent), John Sleeman (Engineering Technician), Susan Straus (Chief Engineer/Environment), and Ralph Wells (Water Plant Assistant Superintendent).

Re: Concrete Maintenance Program

The Concrete Maintenance Task Force was asked to address codification and possible modifications to the program's repair standards, certain issues of financing, and the use of innovations to improve the effectiveness of the program. An educational video about the City's infrastructure maintenance efforts was shown and staff presented the Task Force's final report and recommendation for new guidelines for repair and replacement of concrete infrastructure. The Mayor and Council agreed that the Task Force's recommendations could be approved administratively by the City Manager. The Mayor and Council requested that staff conduct a follow up report in one year.

Re: Enhanced Leaf Collection

Staff informed the Mayor and Council of procedural changes for the City's

fall leaf collection, beginning October 1996. The plan is to combine the 16 smaller areas of the City into 5 larger sections and have crews canvass each enlarged section for five consecutive days. Each area would receive two collection weeks. The benefit to residents would be an expanded scheduled time to put leaves out for collection. The advantage to the City would be having the flexibility of not collecting water soaked leaves during heavy rain and snow days, thus reducing wear and tear of the vacuum equipment. The Mayor and Council expressed support for this change in the leaf collection program. They stressed that an extensive public education and notification process must take place so that residents were fully aware of the change in procedure. Mayor and Council also asked that staff inform them of anticipated residential concerns and any questions which may arise about the new procedure.

Re: Recycling Services

Staff presented an analysis on staff's recommendation to move the City's recycling operation in-house at the close of the current contract with Wright Away Refuse Company. The analysis, prepared by Ms. Martin, detailed service and financial impacts. The Mayor and Council reached consensus to go forth with staff's recommendation and asked to see:

- the comparison costs in using permanent employees and temporary staff;
- long range costs of the program, e.g., replacement of recycling trucks beyond Fiscal Year 1998.

## Re: Composting

In an effort to provide Rockville residents with the greatest cost benefit for solid waste disposal services, the staff of the Department of Public Works initiated the conception of a city-wide composting facility. The Mayor and Council discussed whether the City should investigate the feasibility of establishing a municipal composting program by pursuing more in-depth research on potential sites, operating equipment, and product marketing. Mayor and Council discussed the following issues:

- what type of measures are available for handling yard waste which might contain chemicals or other toxic matters.
- Staff should concentrate on potential sites within the City limits.
- What would be the neighborhood impacts of having a composting facility in the City.
- The idea of marketing the compost final product is interesting; however, the City would have to be cautious about expanding this effort outside of the City.

Staff was directed to continue to explore the idea of establishment of a composting program.

## Re: Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the Mayor and Council, the meeting was adjourned at 10:44 p.m., to convene again in Worksession at 7:30 p.m. on July 29, 1996, or at the call of the Mayor.